

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend claims 3-12, 15-20, and 22 as follows.*

1. (Original) A non-adjustable pressure reducing valve for nasal supplying of a flow of air to a patient, said valve comprising;
  - a hollowed tubular member defining an internal continuous flow passage extending from a high pressure air inlet end part, adapted to receive a flow of air from an air supplying conduit, to a low pressure air outlet end part opposite to said inlet end part and adapted to be connected to respiratory means for delivering a first part of said flow of air to the patient, and an intermediate air venting part having perforation(s) for venting a second part of said flow of air from said flow passage of the tubular member into the ambient atmosphere, and
  - a shielding member being attached to the tubular member such that a space is defined between an outer surface of the air venting part and an inner surface of the shielding member in order to provide a shield above said perforation(s), said space being closed at the end towards the air outlet end part and open at the opposite end towards the air inlet end for directing the second part of the air flow from said perforations towards said air inlet end part.
2. (Original) A valve according to claim 1, wherein the air inlet part, the air outlet part and the intermediate air venting part form an integrated unit.
3. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein the valve is made in one piece.
4. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein the shielding member comprises a capsule-like member to be attached to the tubular member, the capsule having an internal peripheral portion with a flange section for shielding said perforation(s) and an attachment section for attaching it to the tubular member, the radial size of the flange section being larger than the radial size of the

part of the tubular member comprising the perforation(s) whereas the radial size of the attaching section being equal to or smaller than the radial size of a part of the tubular member located between the perforation(s) and the air outlet.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of claims 1, 2 and 4,~~ claim 1, wherein the tubular member comprises an external peripheral portion between the high pressure air inlet end part and the low pressure air outlet, said external peripheral portion comprising a stepped configuration or a flange for receiving and holding said attachment section of the shielding member.
6. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of claims 1-5,~~ claim 1, wherein the shielding member is a tubular body of revolution surrounding the air venting part.
7. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of claims 1, 2 and 4-6,~~ claim 1, wherein the shielding member is a separate part attached to the tubular member.
8. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of claims 1, 2 and 4-7,~~ claim 1, wherein the shielding member is fixed attached to the tubular member.
9. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of claims 3-8,~~ claim 1, wherein the distance between said outer surface of the air venting part and said inner surface of the shielding member is between 0.5-5 mm, such as 1 or 2 mm.
10. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~ claim 1, wherein the diameter of the inlet end part is 4-8 mm, such as 6 mm.
11. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~ claim 1, wherein the diameter of the outlet end part is 2-5 mm, such as 3 mm.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~  
claim 1, wherein the perforations comprise four air passages substantially even  
distributed around the circumference of the tubular member.

13. (Original) A valve according to claim 12, wherein the angle between the  
centre lines of the air passages is substantially 90°.

14. (Original) A valve according to claim 13, wherein the diameter of the one  
pair of oppositely arranged air passages is different from the diameter of the other  
pair of oppositely arranged air passages.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~  
claim 1, wherein the diameter of the perforation(s) is between 1-10 mm, such as 2-9  
mm, such as 3-8 mm, such as 4-7 mm, such as 5-6 mm.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~  
claim 1, wherein the valve is disposable.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~  
claim 1, wherein the inner cavity and the perforation(s) of the air venting part are  
shaped and dimensioned so as to reduce an air inlet overpressure of 6-7 bars to an  
air outlet overpressure of 2-7 cm water column.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~  
claim 1, wherein the air venting part is adapted to vent 50% or more of the air flowing  
through the inner cavity of the valve into the ambient atmosphere.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~  
claim 1, wherein the low pressure air outlet comprise a flange for connecting a nasal  
prong section thereto.

20. **(Currently Amended)** A valve according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~  
claim 1, wherein the low pressure air outlet is constituted by a nasal prong section  
having first and second nasal prong air outlets.

21. (Original) A method of providing gas to a CPAP (Continuous Positive  
Airway Pressure) valve, said method comprising conveying gas under a first  
pressure from a gas supply to at least two gas passages, one passage extending  
towards an outlet in a direction towards a patient and the other passage extending  
towards an outlet in an opposite direction so as to reduce the pressure of the air  
coming out of the outlet to a pressure level below said first pressure.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A method of providing gas to a CPAP (Continuous  
Positive Airway Pressure) valve, said method comprising conveying gas under a first  
pressure from a gas supply through a valve ~~according to any of claims 1-20~~  
comprising:

– a hollowed tubular member defining an internal continuous flow passage  
extending from a high pressure air inlet end part, adapted to receive a flow of air  
from an air supplying conduit, to a low pressure air outlet end part opposite to said  
inlet end part and adapted to be connected to respiratory means for delivering a first  
part of said flow of air to the patient, and an intermediate air venting part having  
perforation(s) for venting a second part of said flow of air from said flow passage of  
the tubular member into the ambient atmosphere, and

– a shielding member being attached to the tubular member such that a space  
is defined between an outer surface of the air venting part and an inner surface of  
the shielding member in order to provide a shield above said perforation(s), said  
space being closed at the end towards the air outlet end part and open at the  
opposite end towards the air inlet end for directing the second part of the air flow  
from said perforations towards said air inlet end part.